Assassination Report Critic Accused Of Dangerously Deceptive Writing

Post 6/28/66

Warren Commission critic Edward Jay Epstein is "guilty of the very sins" of distortion and deception that he placed against the Commission itself, according to an article in Look Magazine out today.

"At worst, Epstein has written a dangerously deceptive book" about the investigation of the Kennedy assassination, Look correspondent Fletcher Knebel said.

"At the best," said Knebel, "he is guilty of precisely what he lays at the door of the Warren Commission—a superficial investigation."

Epstein charged that the Commission, partly out of a desire to meet deadlines and terminate rumors, failed to expore fully evidence that indicated Lee Harvey Oswald may have had an accomplice.

The book, written originally as a master's thesis at Cornell, began as a case study of special commissions as methods of solving national problems.

Among its disclosures were hitherto unpublished FBI reports at variance with the official autopsy report.

Knebel said that Epstein, by using the techniques available to any police reporter, could have discovered that the early FBI report, which supported the two-assassin theory, had been proven erroneous through investigation.

According to Knebel, Epstein deserves credit for disclosing internal disputes in the Commission that lay behind the final report and the mistake in naming busy men of ational renown to do work that required costant attention by the commissioners themselves.

Epstein, now studying for a doctorate at Harvard, said yesterday Knebel had made some valid criticisms, but the book never was intended as a complete account of the assassination itself. He said Knebel and other reporters were in a better position than he to get fuller statemets from the FBI and other sources.